

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3809

UNCLAS TOKYO 14122

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: SANKEI POLL ON MIKI CABINET

SUMMARY: SANKEI SHIMBUN CONDUCTED TELEPHONE POLL SEPT 29 (REPORTED IN OCTOBER 1 SANKEI ) ON MIKICABINET WITH 953 TOKYO-OSAKA RESPONDENTS. MAJOR FINDINGS: (A) SUPPORT FOR MIKI CABINET DROPPED TO LOWEST EVER 28 PERCENT SINCE PM MIKI TOOK OFFICE LAST DECEMBER, RESULTING IN ALMOST EQUAL SUPPORT AND NON-SUPPORT RATINGS. COMPARED TO AUGUST, SUPPORT BY MALE RESPONDENTS DECLINED 14 PERCENT, WHILE THAT OF FEMALES WAS 17 PERCENT LESS. SANKEI CALLED ATTENTION TO "CONSPICUOUS DECLINE OF MIKI SUPPORT AMONG WOMEN," ATTRIBUTING IT TO VERY RECENT "FORCED PASSAGE OF PRICE-RAISING BILLS BY LDP THROUGH LOWER HOUSE STEERING COMMITTEE." SIMILAR BIG DROP IN MIKI CABINET SUPPORT OVER PAST MONTH WAS ALSO SEEN AMONG YOUNGER RESPONDENTS. FOR THOSE AGED 20-29 YEARS SUPPORT FELL FROM 35 TO 18. EVEN AMONG LDP SUPPORTERS MIKI SUPPORT FELL FROM 64 TO 50 PERCENT. (B) AS REASONS GIVEN, LARGEST NUMBER (12 PERCENT) REPLIED THEY "CANNOT EXPECT ANY NEW POLICIES." ONLY 2 PERCENT HELD SUCH VIEW WHEN MIKI TOOK OFFICE, BUT VIEW HAS SINCE SHOWN STEADY INCREASE IN EACH POLL. (C) 74 PERCENT (MULTIPLE ANSWERS) MENTIONED "PRICE STABILIZATION" AS MOST PRESSING MEASURE FOR MIKI CABINET TO HANDLE. END SUMMARY. FULL TEXT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1. DO YOU NOW SUPPORT MIKE CABINET, OR DON'T YOU?: (A) SUPPORT, UNCLASSIFIED

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28; (B) DO NOT SUPPORT, 29; (C) DK, 43.

2. REASONS FOR YOUR SUPPORT (28 PERCENT): (A) ITS POLICY SEEMS BETTER THAN HERETOFORE, 3; (B) SEEMS NO APPROPRIATE PERSON BESIDES MIKI, 8; (C) FEEL ASSURED WITH ANYONE UNDER LDP ADMINISTRATION, 6; (D) IT PLACES IMPORTANCE OF DIALOGUE WITH OPPOSITION PARTIES: 3; (B) SEEMS TO GIVE US "CLEAN" POLITICS, 3; (F) NO SPECIFIC REASON, 4; (G) OTHER, 1.

3. REASONS FOR NOT SUPPORTING (29 PERCENT): (A) IT IS LDP CABINET, 2 (B) THERE ARE APPROPRIATE PERSONS OTHER THAN MIKI, 2; (C) IT IS NOT LIKELY TO CONSIDER INTEREST OF WORKERS, 6; (D) WE CANNOT TRUST PREMIER MIKI; 4; (E) CANNOT EXPECT ANY POLICIES, 12; (F) NO SPECIFIC REASON, 3; (G) OTHER, 0.

4. WHAT ARE THE POLICIES WHICH YOU NOW WANT MIKI CABINET TO CARRY OUT BY ALL MEANS? (MULTIPLE REPLIES): (A) EDUCATIONAL REFORM, 25; (B) CONTROL SPIRALING LAND PRICES, 20; (C) PRICE STABILIZATION, 74; (D) OVERCOMING RECESSION, 36; (E) POLLUTION REDUCTION, 25; (F) TAX REDUCTION, 18; (G) REDUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL, 14; (H) INCREASE OLD-AGE ANNUITIES; 14; (I) REFORM OF ELECTION SYSTEM, 5, (J) CONTROL OF POLITICAL FUNDS, 9; (K) DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES AND ENERGY, 5; (L) OTHER; 2; (M) NONE, 1; (O) DK, 1.

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